

WWF-Milestone 3: Second progress report and PM&E system development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this period, after the project initiation, Village based learning groups were set up as follows: KZN – 8 learning groups (110 participants) and EC -8 learning groups (151 participants). All participants prioritized their basket of Climate resilient Agriculture (CRA) activities they would be involved in for the season and throughout the project period.

From the introductory workshops participants who volunteered for the Conservation Agriculture (CA) and fodder supplementation activities have been provided with further learning and mentoring support to implement their CA farmer level experiments and do their planting. A total of 127 participants (74 in KZN and 53 in EC) are implementing a range of farmer level experimentation options in their fields including:

- Planting of the 400m² or 1000 m² CA farmer level experiments (10x10m blocks) including maize (PAN6479, SC701, Colorado), intercropping with legumes (beans (PAN9292, Gadra), cowpeas (Mixed brown)), Dolichos and cover crops (sunflower, sorghum, Sun hemp)
- Planting of the CA 1000m² strip cropping farmer level experiments which include fodder species (cover crops, Tall fescue, Teff, Lespedeza, turnips, pumpkins) and short season maize (PAN 5A 190 and PAN 5A 271)
- Planting larger CA farmer level experiments using the new tractor drawn 2 row planters
- Setting up and planting CA seed plots- 250m² areas with support for fencing and
- Planting CA farmer level experiments for poultry feed production (Sun hemp, cowpeas, sorghum and sunflower)

Participants have also been supported to review and plan their fodder supplementation activities for livestock, including rearing of calves for marketing (65 participants). Poultry producers have been provided support and management training for their broiler and layer production activities (49 participants).

The marketing dialogue process in Southern KZN (Ozwathini) in association with local stakeholders and AFRA, was continued and also introduced in SKZN (Ngongonini) and Bergville (Ezibomvini, Eqeleni, Stulwane and Vimbukhalo). Two market days have now been held in Emmaus (10th April and 8th May) and a market day has been set up for Ozwathini on 1st June. The Phakama market process for Umgungundlovu DM, in association with Municipal and Government stakeholders has been re-initiated and the first market in Imbali is set for the 19th June.

Learning and awareness raising cross visits have been conducted: 1 to Enaleni farm (camperdown) to learn about agroecological farming practices in a mixed farming system and value adding; Conservation Agriculture and livestock integration in Bergville to also look at cover crop production, fodder species, baling and fodder supplementation and farmer centres and the Besters Livestock auction to give farmers an understanding of requirements and options for selling livestock through formal auction.

Learning and mentoring workshops (trainings) have been conducted for intensive homestead production (organic gardening) and poultry production (9 villages). A shade clot tunnel construction workshop has also been held in Bergville and 30 tunnels have been procured for local household construction over the next few months.

A participatory monitoring and evaluation process has put in place to proactively monitor a range of production indicators.

1 NARRATIVE REPORT

PROJECT DETAILS

Project No and Title	GT06177_ID315_ Climate Resilient Agriculture in mixed smallholder farming systems allows for sustainable food and nutrition security and local incomes for the rural poor in the lower Drakensberg foothills of KZN and the Eastern Cape.
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Date of approval	6 th October 2020
Start and end date	1 st October 2020-30 th September 2022
Project value	R3 000 000
Contractor's name	Mahlathini Development Foundation
Project objectives	<p>Increased productivity and resilience in the mixed smallholder farming system through implementation of a basket of Climate Resilient Agriculture practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with existing CCA learning groups to scale up production in the short term within the confines of the COVID-19 pandemic 2. Support a range of intensified food production activities; vegetable production, field cropping and livestock integration 3. Improve social agency for value chain support (VSLAs', bulk buying, local farmer centres and local marketing initiatives)
Project outcomes	<p><i>Outcome 1 - Food and nutrition security at household level for poor, rural homesteads with enough farming income to sustainably maintain farming activities in the short term</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activity 1 - Learning group review and planning sessions to prioritize each participant's most appropriate basket of CRA practices to be implemented, within the present confined of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change 2. Activity 2 - Prioritize a basket of appropriate adaptive practices for the individuals and groups involved within different thematic categories; crops, livestock, water, soil and natural resources 3. Activity 3 - Provide learning and implementation support for the CRA* practices using a Participatory Innovation Development (PID) approach <p><i>Outcome 2 - Development of social agency for community led local economic development and social safety net Improvement of the natural resource base</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Activity 1 - Build social and economic capital within each of the learning groups using approaches such as Village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), farmer centres, small business development and local marketing initiatives 5. Activity 2 - Set up a participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) system for monitoring and assessing the impact of the CSA practices on livelihoods and resilience. 6. Activity 3 - Use an iterative approach of farmer level experimentation and social learning to build local adaptation and innovation capacity
Reporting period	October 2020- 22 January 2021
Significant approved changes	None
Changes in capacity to deliver outcomes	None

2 PROGRESS PER OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOME

The last three months have been focused primarily on field cropping with Conservation Agriculture and livestock integration activities. 249 Participants in KZN and 65 in Matatiele have implemented a range of practices including intercropping, cover crops, short season maize varieties, use of two row tractor drawn planters, strip cropping, production of livestock fodder and poultry feed, production of seed for OPV cover crops and legumes and crop growth and progress has been monitored.

We have also initiated the winter season activities around poultry (broilers, layers) and tunnel construction for intensive organic vegetable production, both with provision of the materials and training.

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We have continued with local marketing processes, both with organic produce market tables at central points such as pension days, hospitals and taxi ranks and also with exploring options for community based livestock auctions.

Table 1: Progress against specific outcomes and activities for the period February – May 2021

Outcome	Activities	Progress (Milestone 2)
Livelihood security at household level	1. Learning group review and planning sessions	KZN: Ezibomvini, Stulwane, Vimbukhalo, Madzikane, Gobizembe, Ozwathini, Spring Valley, Ngongonini, Ofafa EC: Rashule, Mafube, Mzongwana (Lufefeni, Hillside, Chibini, Pamlaville)
	2. Prioritized baskets of appropriate practises	Field Cropping: Conservation Agriculture; intercropping, cover crops, strip cropping, short season maize, cover crops, two-row planter, Gardening: Tunnels, drip irrigation, mixed cropping, herbs and multi-purpose crops, Livestock integration: fodder species (including livestock and poultry), broilers, layers, traditional chickens, composted manure, rabbit production
	3. Learning and implementation support	Conservation Agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmer level experimentation in a range of practices ✓ Mid- season crop growth monitoring and initiation of yield measurements ✓ Cross visits and in season progress meetings Livestock integration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Poultry production learning workshops (x 9) ✓ Preparation for expansion of broiler and egg production; housing sanitation and orders for birds and inputs ✓ Continuation with calf rearing and buying and selling of calves and weaners in Ozwathini ✓ Cutting of veld grass for baling and winter feed supplementation – Bergville ✓ Cross visit to commercial livestock auctions in Ladysmith and Lions River and meetings with Bergville Livestock Association re community-based auctions Gardening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tunnel construction training – Bergville and Ozwathini ✓ Ordering and distribution of 30 tunnels KZN and Matatiele for construction ✓ Intensive 3 day organic gardening training for staff and lead farmers – Ozwathini ✓ Cross visit to Enaleni Farm; Agroecological farming and value adding
Social agency for LED and social safety nets	1. VSLAs, business development, farmer centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Local marketing workshops inclusive of youth; SZKN – Ozwathini, Ezibovmini, Stulwane and Vimbukhalo- Bergville and Ngongonini – SKZN ✓ Meetings with Umshwathi (Greytwn), Umgeni (Pietermartizburg). Ubuhlebezwe (Ixopo) and Okhahlamba (Bergville) LMs regarding collaboration and options for local marketing initiatives in their areas ✓ Local stalls at Emmaus pension points 10th April and 8th May ✓ Local stall planned for Bamshela (Ozwathini) for 1st June ✓ Market stall planned for Phakama market in Imbali PMB for 19th June ✓ 12 VSLA's in KZN; monthly mentoring and share out meetings ✓ Workshops with VSLA committee members and groups x 2 regarding alternative approaches to bulk loan funds in VSLAs and saving for inputs.

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2. PM&E system and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PM&E planning and design workshop with external evaluator ✓ Development of PM&E framework for this programme ✓ Fine tuning and use of monitoring tools incl: CA crop growth monitoring, poultry production monitoring, CRA impact snapshots
3. Iterative PID approach for improved adaptation and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓

2.1 PROGRESS KZN

Intensive monitoring of the implementation of the range of Conservation Agriculture farmer level experimentation was undertaken. The number of participants undertaking the CA experimentation are large, thanks to additional support for this process from the maize Trust and the DARD Landcare programme for this season. In the villages targeted for the Green trust activities, 249 participants partook in the CA farmer level experimentation process. They implemented a wide range of CA practices including intercropping with legumes, planting summer over crops, planting livestock fodder and poultry feed, using the two-row tractor drawn no till planter, strip cropping, planting for keeping seed (specifically for legumes and cover crops) and trying out short season maize hybrids. This is summarized in the table below.

Table 2: CA experimentation implementation in KZN (Nov2020-April 2021)

Area	No	Village name	No of participants	1000m ² trials (10x10' s)	400m ² trials	Strips	Livestock Fodder species	Seed	Poultry feed	Two row planter	Short season maize	Actual experiments planted (hectares)
Bergville	1	Egeleni	15	1	3	14	2				2	1,38
	2	Ezibomvini	30	17	2	12	3	3	1		7	2,46
	3	Stulwane	33	22	12	10	5		4	6	10	3,79
	4	Vimbukhalo	24	10	15	20	2	2		3	10	2,11
Midlands: Ozwathini	5	Ozwathini	27	12	15	8	5	1	6	4	3	2,72
Midlands: Swayimane	6	Gobizembe	25	3	15	7	4	1	6	2	8	1,6
	7	Emayizekanye	35	7	28	7	8	1				2,32
SKZN	8	Madzikane	7		3	4				4	2	0,34
	9	Springvalley	13		13							0,52
	10	Ofafa	12		12							0,48
	11	Ngongonini	11		11					2	2	0,44
	12	Nkoneni	17			11				1		1,7
			249	72	129	93	29	8	17	22	44	24,93

1. Support a range of intensified production activities.

For the present period we have continued the focus on field cropping and livestock integration, and the monthly mentoring for the 12 Village Savings and Loan Associations being supported.

We have initiated local marketing activities in Ozwathini, Ngongonini and Bergvill and, have conducted cross visits in CA (Bergville), organic value adding (Enaleni farm), and local livestock auctions (Besters-Ladysmith). We have initiated the winter season activities by finalising participants and orders for poultry participants (broiler and layers (50 participants across KZN and Matatiele) and have continued to conducted poultry learning and support sessions (3 in Matatiele, 1 in Ozwathini and 3 in Bergville). We have also ordered 30 small tunnels and have conducted a 3- day intensive gardening training course for staff and lead farmers.

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Mr Luyanda Njanjala from WWF joined the team for local visits on the 8-9th March for Bergville and the 29th March-1st April for Matatiele. In addition, we hosted an African Farmer reporter in Bergville for a feature article on conservation agriculture, LM officials on site visits to CA farmers and DARD Landcare officials on site visits in Bergville, SKZN and the Midlands.

Specific activities have included:

Activity	Description	Date	No of participants
Enaleni farm x-visit (with AFRA	Agroecological farming practices and value adding (See Annexure 1)	19 th February 2021	8 (Ozwathini) and 4 MDF staff, 7 AFRA
Ozwathini, Bergville_Ezibomvini, Stulwane,Vimbukhalo, Eqeleni	Local marketing initiatives: Stall at pension pay outs in busy areas (See Annexure 2)	4 th March 10 th , 11 th , and 17 th March, 5 th , 9 th , 10 th April	20 (Ozwathini), 9 AFRA 18 (Ezibomvini), 28 incl 8 youth (Stulwane) 14 (Vimbukhalo)
Bergville	Livestock association meeting; intro of MDF	3 rd March	3 MDF staff
Bergville_Ezibomvini, Eqeleni	Tunnel construction training	22 nd and 23 rd March	5 MDF staff, 29 community members
Ozwathini -	3 day intensive gardening training	23-25 th March	8 MDF staff, 2 AFRA staff, 4 youths and 7 community members
Livestock auctions cross visit (w AFRA	Visits to two livestock auctions in Ladysmith and Lions River to talk to farmers and the AAM auctioneers	19 th April	7 MDF staff, 2 AFRA staff and 8 youths and 18 community members
Delivery of layers and inputs	Start up of small egg laying businesses in Bergville, SKZN and Midlands	26 th -28 th April	18 participants across 6 villages

2. Strengthening of Innovation platforms and networks

For the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) an exploratory process has been put in place to tailor these groups more towards being able to support productive activities. New models need to be developed for these groups to be able to accommodate larger production loans, more savings and longer saving cycles. Led by Mr Nqe Dlamini from StratAct, we have had 2 internal workshops to develop potential scenarios and have also conducted village level scenario development workshops: 2 in SKZN (Ngongonini, Madzikane) and 2 in Bergville with representative from the 12 VSLAs. A summary of the scenarios developed is presented in Annexure 3.

Other work with the innovation platforms included the local marketing coordination, continuation with the Ezibomvini learning group farmer centre, and initiation of a village based small maize mill in Ezibomvini as well.

2.2 PROGRESS IN MATATIELE (EC)

Intensive monitoring of the implementation of the range of Conservation Agriculture farmer level experimentation was undertaken. 61 Participants across 5 villages undertook the CA experimentation, mostly intercropping with legumes (beans and cowpeas) and close spacing, as this has been the first year of introducing CA in the area. A few participants also undertook planting of cover crops and use of the 2- row planter. Most participants planted very small areas to CA, despite being provided with inputs to do 400m² CA plots. The implementation is summarized in the table below.

Table 3: Implementation of CA experimentation in Matatiele November 2020-April 2021

Area	No	Village name	No of participants	100m ² trials (10x10' s)	Inter cropping	Strips	Livestock Fodder species	Two row planter	Short season maize	Actual experiments planted (hectares)
Matatiele	1	Mngeni	30	1	12					0,48
	2	Lufefeni	13	1	13			3		0,14

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3	Palmaville	5		5				0,05
4	Rashule	23		18				0,72
5	Nkau	8		8	1	1		0,32

3. Support a range of intensified production activities

Besides the CA monitoring, the 5 village- based learning groups explored their present poultry production activities through walkabouts and discussions. This was followed by 1 day poultry production learning sessions and poultry orders (both day old broilers and layers) for initiation and intensification of small poultry businesses for 17 and 13 participants, respectively. Inputs for layers and point of lay hens were delivered at the end of April 2021.

Specific activities included:

Activity	Description	Date	No of participants
CA mid- term monitoring and mentoring	Mngeni, Lufefeni, Palmaville, Rashule, Nkau	20 th to 22 nd January and 22 nd -25 th February	56 participants
Poultry production training	Nkau, Rashule and Mafube	31 st March, 6 th April and 7 th April 2021	19, 17 and 18 respectively
Delivery of point of lay hens and inputs	Mzongwana, Nkau, Rashule and Mafube	28 th -30 th April	13 participants

The table below outlines the contributions provided by MDF and by the farmers themselves for both KZN and EC towards their small poultry businesses.

Table 4: Poultry inputs contributions from MDF and participant farmers, April 2021

MDF Contribution	Layers	Broilers	Layers Mash (50kg)	Broiler starter (50 kg)	Broiler finisher (50 kg)	Feeders 10-12l)	Drinkers (10-12l)	Amount in Rands
Matatiele	30	90	3	4	4	15	9	
SKZN	33	40	4	4	4	11	11	
Bergville	60	170	6	7	7	23	23	
Midlands	50	30	5	1	1	8	8	
Total	173	330	18	16	16	57	51	
Prices	R 19 800	R 3 300	R 4 500	R 5 040	R 5 040	R 4 270	R 3 825	
TOTAL							R 45 780	
Payment by participants	Layers	Broilers	Layers Mash (50kg)	Broiler starter (50 kg)	Broiler finisher (50 kg)	Feeders 10-12l)	Drinkers (10-12l)	Paid already
Matatiele	13	117	1	1,5	1,5			R2 320
SKZN	3		1					
Midlands	40	100						R5 760
Bergville		200						R2 000
Total	56	417	2	1,5	1,5	0	0	R10 080
Grand Total	229	747	20	18	18	57	51	

3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The participatory process has been instituted, led by the external evaluator Margaret Jack. A process has been designed for monitoring and the monitoring tool has been finalised. In addition, we have decided on the process for the mid-term evaluation around September 2021. Please see Annexure 4.

4 GAPS AND CONSTRAINTS

For the past four months work has continued, despite enhanced difficulties in the broader environment including the higher poverty rates in rural areas, increased prices for food and agricultural supplies, and difficulties in supply for some agricultural commodities such as layers and broilers, as well as bonemeal and seedlings.

The improved rainfall this season has led both to improved growth in rainfed farming and larger issues with erosion experienced by farmers.

Within MDF, one of the younger field staff members has resigned and has been replaced by a senior field staff member, Michael Malinga, who brings around 18 years of project management experience to the table.

5 COMMENT ON FINANCIAL REPORT

NOTES ON EXPENDITURE

Expenditure has been compiled up until the end of April 2021

1. Staff cost: Staff costs are slightly higher (15%) than the budget amount. This is likely to continue as it was deemed necessary to replace a junior field staff member with a senior staff member to better manage the complicated logistics of this project.
2. Travel and Subsistence: This category showed a 15% higher expenditure than the budget allocated for this reporting period. Ongoing issues with ageing field vehicles as well as a hike in vehicle rental fees from AVIS were both unavoidable costs.
3. Operating expenses: Expenditure on this budget item has only been 59% of the allocated funds.
4. Overall expenditure for the period of October 2020 to April 2021 has been 86% of allocated funds. Third part fees and fees for Evaluation are expected to be higher in the coming period.

Below is a summary of the Financial report.

WWF_GT06177_ID315_CRA in mixed smallholder farming systems in KZN and EC. May 2021

WWF: GT06177 Financial report

Date: 14 May 2021

Milestone 3

		ESTIMATES		ACTUALS			
Code	Description	Project Budget 2 Oct 2020- 14 May 2021	Full Year Oct2020- Sept 2021	Previously Reported YTD Actuals	This quarter Actuals (Feb, March, April)	Year-to- Date (YTD) Actuals	Forecast minus YTD Actuals (=Variance)
	A - OPENING BALANCE	R3 000,00	R1 659 492,00	R187 500,00	R97 433,31	R562 500,00	R1 096 992,00
	Cash received	R562 500,00					
	Other income (interest, FX gains/loss)	n/a					
	B - TOTAL income + o/balance	R562 500,00	R1 659 492,00	R187 500,00	R562 500,00	R562 500,00	R1 096 992,00
	EXPENDITURE by code						
1	Staff costs	R396 919,68	R585 600,00	R207 807,00	R250 578,00	R458 385,00	R127 215,00
2	Third party fees	R150 268,26	R221 700,00	R87 521,32	R17 000,00	R104 521,32	R117 178,68
3	Travel and Subsistence	R146 303,13	R215 850,00	R96 280,49	R72 921,77	R169 202,26	R46 647,74
4	Capital Asset costs						
5	Operating expenses; materials, Office	R401 489,41	R592 342,00	R73 457,88	R162 498,52	R235 956,40	R356 385,60
6	Meetings / Education / Training						
7	Project Promotion / Communication/ Printing / Publication						
8	Project Evaluation by 3 rd party	R29 823,20	R44 000,00				R44 000,00
	C - TOTAL EXPENDITURE	R1 124 803,68	R1 659 492,00	R465 066,69	R502 998,29	R968 064,98	R691 427,02
	D - CLOSING BALANCE	R1 196,32	R1 340 508,00	-R277 566,69	-R405 564,98	-R405 564,98	R405 564,98

11. SIGNIFICANT PLANNED ACTIONS FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Outcome	Activities	Planned actions (Milestone 4)
Livelihood security at household level	1. Learning group planning sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ KZN: Ezibomvini, Stulwane, Vimbukhalo, Madzikane, Gobizembe, Ozwathini, Spring Valley, Ofafa ✓ EC: Rashule, Mafube, Mzongwana (Lufefeni, Hillside, Chibini, Pamlaville)
	2. Prioritized baskets of appropriate practises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Field Cropping: Yield measurements, storage milling and marketing ✓ Gardening: Tunnels, drip irrigation, mixed cropping, herbs and multi-purpose crops ✓ Livestock integration: Winter fodder supplementation experimentation process, next round of calf rearing, to sell as weaners or yearlings.

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		✓ Poultry production: Set up and monitoring for 50 participants cross KZN and EC.
	3. Learning and implementation support	✓ Tunnel construction and intensive homestead gardening ✓ Poultry production; broiler and layer management
Social agency for LED and social safety nets	1. VSLAs, business development, farmer centres	✓ Marketing exploration workshops continuation and local marketing stalls set up; ✓ 12 VSLA's in KZN; monthly mentoring ✓ Pakhama market continuation of piloting this concept around Umgungundlovu DM
	2. PM&E system and monitoring	✓ Production and progress monitoring system design and implementation
	3. Iterative PID approach for improved adaptation and innovation	✓ Seasonal reviews for field cropping and implementation for winter production cycle with participating learning groups and planning for farmer level experimentation

12. LIST OF ANNEXURES

Complementary information, including photographs.

ANNEXURES

1. Enaleni farm cross-visit: Agroecological farming
2. Ozwathini marketing workshop: Progress summary March 2021
3. Proposed alternative approach to bulk loan funds in VSLAs
4. WWF CRA implementation draft M&E framework

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PHOTOGRAPHS (Feb-April 2021)

Figure 1: Mrs Tumelo (Nkau – Matiele, with eggs from her 20 layers and far right: Her Conservation Agriculture intercropped maize and bean field – March 2021



Figure 2: Above left; Phumelele Hongwane's (Ezibomvini-Bergville) strip cropping trial showing short season maize, beans and summer cover crops- sun hemp, sunflower and sorghum. Above right: Mrs Xulu's (Ozwathini- Bamshela) maize and bean intercropped CA plots



Figure 3: Above left: Tunnel construction training in Egeleni Bergville and Above right: 3 day gardening training in Ozwathini showing participants planting and mulching a mixed crop trench bed inside a newly constructed tunnel.

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Figure 4: Above left: Mphitizile Jili's CA intercropped plot (Mngeni village, Mzongwana Matatiele) showing good growth and canopy cover and Above Right Bhadini Nogwadi's CA plot in Palmaville, Mzongwana., also showing good growth and attention to detail.



Figure 5: Above left. The Farmers' market stall at Emmaus pension day, with gazebo and branding. Around R2400 was made by farmers on the day. Above Right: Stock pens at the Besters livestock auction sale yard. Participants spoke to the farmers selling there and Mr Geldenhuys from AAM to explore their options for selling livestock through auctions.

6 TWO COPIES OF ANY PUBLICATIONS

African Farmer: March 2021. Pges 22-26: Village Life: Transforming through collaboration. Th big picture in Conservation Agriculture. Using CA to improve yields and livelihoods in rural KZN and Not-till: The farmer's friend.
https://www.africanfarming.com/#dearflip-df_23710/32/

A copy of the African Farmer online magazine is provided in electronic format as an attachment to this report.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report excel sheet is attached as a separate document: WWF_Financial report_GT06177_ID315_CRA KZN-EC_202100517. Documentation for explaining full expenditure summaries is available on request.

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE 1: ENALENI FARM CROSS VISIT: AGROECOLOGICAL FARMING

Focus Area:	WWF Local food systems
Name of Meeting:	Agro-Ecological Orientation
Date:	18 February 2021
Venue:	Enaleni Farm

Present:

Lungelo Buthelezi, Mazwi Dlamini, Donna Hornby, Sibahle Mthembu, Nokuthula Mthimunya, Mondli Zondi, Ayanda Madlala, Babhekile Nene, Dumazile Nxusa, Sli Miya, Temakholo Mathebula, Dolly Mzobe, Nokwanda Gwamanda, Mildred Myeza, Sbhongile Ndlovu, Lindiwe Zondi, Constance Mcanyana, Nomusa Ndlela, Dolly Chamane, Nontokoza Mdletshe, Samkelisiwe Mkhize, Thobile Mweli.

1. Activity:

Agro-ecological orientation at Enaleni Farm

2. Objectives:

- Small scale farmers to connect with farm dwellers (who have an interest in farming) around agricultural activities.
- Learn about agro-ecological farming practices and explore these in their own gardens.
- Possible marketing strategies that farmers can use to attract customers.

3. Background:

Members of Qina Mbokodo (supported by Association for Rural Advancement-AFRA) – farm dweller women's structure consisting of members from 7 local municipalities within uMgungundlovu District and aiming to strengthen the voices of women) and small scale farmers (supported by Mahlathini Development Foundation-MDF) from Ozwathini took part in an agro-ecological orientation on the 18th of February. This exercise involved participants who either have an interest in farming or are already practicing farming to learning more about using land/space available to them.

An orientation at Enaleni Farm seemed the perfect fit as it is relatively small scale, 10ha agro-ecological farm, a working example of the celebration and diversity of heritage breeds. The mixed farming system of plants and animals presented participants with an opportunity to ponder the relationship between animals, plants and a non-industrialised approach to land usage and food production.

Pictures below illustrate some of what participants saw during the farm orientation:



Participants were shown different chicken breeds and what they feed on (greens)



Intercropping of different plants. In the picture is maize intercropped with legumes.

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An example of animals (chicken and rabbit) sharing the same space, something that was foreign to participants.



Goat cheese processed in Enaleni Farm.



An example of a product processed on the farm, stewed apricots



Homemade pasta and other foods processed in the background.



Participants taking a tour in Enaleni farm and engaging with farmer owner through Q&A.

4. **Reflections:**

After the orientation around the farm, participants had a discussion session to share what they had learnt, what they would like to practice in their gardens, what they would like to see more of and shared questions that they still had. Below are their responses:

i. **Lessons learnt:**

- a) Sheep and free-range pigs sharing the same space and grazing area.
- b) Animals (livestock) that live together – back home we separate them according to their type and this takes up a lot of space and is limiting as we sometimes have to choose which ones to herd.
- c) Weed or other greens are something that we always remove from the garden, we were not aware that it can be useful in farming e.g. ugquzu and umsobo.
- d) The importance of making use of the land that is already available to you. We always assume that one needs many hectares of land to practice farming but today we learnt that this is not the case.
- e) We learnt about mix breeding of cattle.
- f) We were exposed to different breeds of chickens.
- g) The food that we eat has a long term effect on our health. We need to engage more in organic ways of farming and not rush to making profit as this has a long term impact on us and our customers.
- h) The milking process needs not be brutal.
- i) The importance of the farmer-animal-plant relationship.
- j) We were not aware that animals also need their own “maternity ward” where they can be taken care of and fully recover from the birthing process.
- k) Livestock need to be taken care of and most importantly, they need to be loved.
- l) Cooking ingredients mostly come from the farm which means less money spent on buying food.
- m) This process showed us that there is more to learnt from agriculture
- n) Using the available land to make profit e.g. this farm is less than 10 ha but there is everything (plantations, grazing area, kraals, restaurant)
- o) There is money in farming.

ii. **What is already being practiced in their gardens**

- a) Inter-cropping, cover-cropping – we are happy with the cover crop process that has been recently introduced to us and only seeing the benefit after practicing. At first we thought it was too much work.
- b) Use of cow and other animal manure in the garden
- c) Grazing area rotation

iii. **Questions for the Farmer owner**

- a) Why is the donkey given special treatment compared to other animals on the farm
- b) The rabbit breeding period is too short – is that it normal?
- c) Monkeys are a challenge for us as they eat all the plantations – how do you deal with them?

5. **Marketing strategies:**

Richard Haigh (owner of the farm) took us through some of the marketing strategies that he uses on his farm, some of which farmers can draw from;

- Processing of produce to increase longevity – most small scale farmers had challenges with selling their produce not knowing that if you also process your own food, it will have a longer shelf-life.
- Creating or having a logo when packaging your food is important as it sets you apart from other producers, eliminates the middle man and creates an identity.
- Do your own marketing – market/open days
- Add value by bottling your produce
- Produce a variety of things.

6. **Way Forward:**

- Participants were taken by the processing of their own food – they shared that they would like to know more about the subject
- To take all the learnings from the process and implement them in their gardens

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- Markets seem to be a challenge for small scale farmers (SSF) – they would like to explore more strategies to share.
- Proposal to visit the farm again or visit another farm to capture practical examples of what they can do to improve as SSF.

7. Closure:

In closing, Richard expressed what Enaleni means to him; it is the relationship between animals, plants, the people and the soil. There is a need to keep a balance of all these as they complement each other.

ANNEXURE 2: OZWATHINI MARKETING WORKSHOP: PROGRESS SUMMARY MARCH 2021

Introduction

On the 04th of March a workshop around marketing and youth involvement was held in Ozwathini. 20 Farmers attended the meeting, 7 youth members from AFRA and 2 staff (Ayanda Madlala and Siya Sithole) from AFRA.

Farmers commented that youth did not come as they have little interest in farming and getting dirty. In addition, farmers felt that they wanted to manage their own marketing processes as they have been doing to date. Below are some of the pictures that were taken during the workshop.



Figure 1: Pictures that were taken during the Ozwathini youth and marketing meeting

Process

After introduction of the AFRA youth and their process, an update was given on the social action/ march organised around marketing in Bamsehlala. Baba Ngcobo explained that the march organised to make business owners aware that they would prefer them to buy produce locally, rather than from outside the area. This was supported by the local authorities and DARD officials in the area. A meeting with these owners was set of the 8th of March.

Farmers provided a recap of their most important marketing avenues:

- Locally to their neighbours
- Bakkie traders
- Local shops (Riverside and Macaphuna)
- Some farmers from Ilembe used to supply local schools but the contract ended
- Some farmers said they go to Bhamshela and set up a table and sell there (especially during busy pension days).

Crops sold through these avenues are:

- Mealies
- Amadumbe

- Sweet potatoes
- Potatoes
- Beans
- Butternut
- Cabbage

Mama Chamane said that their biggest problem is that they are not registered as a Co-op and farmers from Ilembe are a registered co-op which makes it easy for them to get incentives from the municipality and that is why they are able to supply schools. Baba Ngcobo said he was helping with registering of the co-op and the process is still on stand-by, as they submitted all the required documents but have not had a response yet. There is a feeling that business owners prefer to work with cooperatives, rather than individuals and that it would be easier to work in a group to ensure continuity, volume and quality of production.

Mama Mzobe said that she once had a relationship with one farmer who was supplying schools, but they offered really low prices, i.e. R5/cabbage which she could not sustain. Baba Nkomo from KZNDARD encouraged farmers to work together, support and uplift each other so that they can all be successful. They need to make sure that their produce is clean and also the packaging is good and they should be loyal to their customers so as to keep a good relationship.

Tema then explored the option of a market table (pension pay outs or month end) in Bamshela as an option. Some farmers felt that there is no easy space for a table in Bamshela. A few individuals had tried it before, selling cabbages, but found that the going was slow as potential customers preferred to go to Boxer. Generally farmers thought this was a great idea. Baba Ngcobo offered to speak to a shop owner in bamsela who has a large open yard, which would be a good venue. The market day was initially proposed to be in the last week of March just before the Easter holidays participants felt they would have a larger range of produce later (maize, beans, potatoes, Amadumbe, sweet potatoes, cabbages, eggs and broilers), so the first week of June was pegged as a date. Mama Bhengu said she planted herbs (parsley, coriander and thyme) and she is hoping that by June they will be ready to be sold. Mahlathini was given the task of organizing tables, gazebos, posters and flyers for the day. Farmers were given the task of making a list of all the vegetables they have when the market day approaches, as well as discussing prices for their produce. Mama Mzobe also encouraged farmers to make use of social media for advertising their crops, she said last year her daughter posted her beans on whatsapp and that's how she got a lot of customers, all her beans was sold out very quickly

AFRA would have a meeting with Umshwathi Local Municipality and raise the question of potential support for such marketing initiatives.

Way forward and actions

- Nontokozo to create a facebook page for advertising. The facebook page was created successfully; it is called Ozwathini Farmer's Association.
- Whatsapp group to be created so as to advertise using whatsapp also.
- Tema to send Siya the Ozwathini mapping (participant's list, GPS coordinates, type of farming, extent of land access).
- Ayanda to engage with Umshwathi Municipality on farmer's needs.
- Farmers to meet with Bhamshela business owners on the 08th of March.
- To appoint a committee that will help us organize and set up market day.

The Ozwathini Farmer's Association consist of 212 farmers who are from different villages namely Mathulini or Gobinsimbi, Appelsbosch, Hlathikhulu, Ireland, Mkhakhasini, Nomhele, Mbalenhle. Baba Vilakazi is the chairperson of the Ozwathini Farmer's association. Mr Wiseman Ndlovu is the agricultural extension officer in Ozwathini.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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Iguma		Isibongo		Tamba Tacingo	
			Indaba obala kanye	Sayinda	
1	Dece Makhoba	Makhoba	082 795 5571	Defta	
2	Defta	Bhonyu		Defta	
3	Dani B. Mabe	Mabe	076 83866 77	Defta	
4	Cynthia	Defta	072 495445	Defta	
5	Defta	Defta	0790582 284	Defta	
6	Defta	Defta	0734981215	Defta	
7	Defta	Defta	0799401608	Defta	
8	Defta	Defta	0765495566	Defta	
9	Defta	Defta	0604088265	Defta	
10	Defta	Defta	07035567438	Defta	
11	Defta	Defta	0723125548	Defta	
12	Defta	Defta	072713258	Defta	
13	Defta	Defta	0792172989	Defta	
14	Defta	Defta	071234 00308	Defta	
15	Defta	Defta	0729741929	Defta	
16	Defta	Defta	0761445548	Defta	
17	Defta	Defta	0765760039	Defta	
18	Defta	Defta	082 7465 059	Defta	
19	Defta	Defta	0793700069	Defta	
20	Defta	Defta	0126110472	Defta	
21	Defta	Defta	0825993051	Defta	
22	Defta	Defta	0799327441	Defta	
23	Defta	Defta	0715756108	Defta	
24	Defta	Defta	0762397 868	Defta	
25	Defta	Defta	079827441	Defta	
26	Defta	Defta	033-3457607	Defta	
27	Defta	Defta	033-3457607	Defta	
28	Defta	Defta	Defta	Defta	
29	Defta	Defta	Defta	Defta	
30	Defta	Defta	Defta	Defta	

30. Calangeni

Chamane

072 453 9849

Chamane

ANNEXURE 3: PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO BULK LOAN FUNDS IN VSLAS

The purpose of these notes are to summarize the discussions of the MDF team regarding an alternative approach for bulking the loan fund of a VSLA.

This approach is influenced by the experiences that farmers are struggling to save enough money for production inputs. For example, a farmer requires about R10 000 for produce a hectare of maize. The hypothesis is farmers will take out bigger loans from a bigger loan fund. The following ways are proposed for bulking a loan fund.

1. VSLAs should be encouraged to charge membership fees for a minimum of 3 years, but ideally for 5 years. A minimum of R10 per meeting (per month), however, a larger membership fee should be encouraged using the same approach. This will depend on the affordability of members.
2. VSLAs should be encouraged to phase out annual share-out, but how? Members should commit to inject a lump sum at each share-out meeting for at least three years (share-outs). In other words, a VSLA should set a target of the amount of lump sum each member should inject immediately after 2021 share-out. The same should happen in the next 2 years at least. An example and calculation is presented below.
3. VSLAs should be encouraged to open and operate banks accounts. A bank account most convenient and safe for a VSLA that transact large sums of money.

Adopt a stepped approach (using an example of a VSLA with 15 members) – and at 25% interest per annum.

Year	Lump Sum by Member	Bulk Injection	Interest Earned	Total Loan Fund
1	2 000	30 000	7 500	37 500
2	2 000	67 500	16 875	84 375
3		84 375	21 094	105 469
4		105 469	26 367	131 836
5	4 000	131 836	32 959	164 795

- Financial Year 1 (ending 2021) – each member pays R2 000 as a lump sum immediately after the share-out. This lump sum injection will build R30 000 loan fund which will be immediately available to members. Members continue buying their share on monthly basis from the primary VSLA. An assumption is made that the R30 000 would have grown by 25% per annum to R37 500 at least.
- Financial Year 2 (ending 2022) – each member adds another R2 000, again immediately after the share-out. Now the VSLA has R67 500 loan fund available to members. The VSLA may achieve R84 375 by the end of the year at 25% growth. Again, members continue buying shares from the primary VSLA.
- Financial Year 3 (ending 2023) – by this time, the R84 375 may grow to over R100 000 (R105 469) by the end of 2023 (year 3). Members still continue buying shares from the primary VSLA.

It must be noted that each member only contributed R4000 to start with in the first two years. The scenario will be different if they could inject the same amount of R4 000 in the first year and not make any future contributions but let the loan fund grow. The magic of compounded interest will be like this.

Year	Lump Sum by Member	Bulk Injection	Interest Earned	Total Loan Fund
1	4 000	60 000	15 000	75 000
2	-	75 000	18 750	93 750
3		93 750	23 438	117 188
4		117 188	29 297	146 484
5	4 000	146 484	36 621	183 105

The same R4 000 per member (R60 000) will earn R123 105 interest in 5 years.

Discussion

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- VSLA member must be given option to operate a separate “VSLA” for the proposal above. This can be referred to as secondary VSLA while the original be referred to as primary VSLA. No members should be coerced to join the secondary VSLA.
 - Only members of the primary VSLA should be allowed to establish a secondary VSLA. This is the only route to participate in the secondary VSLA. This is very significant! It will prevent non-members of primary VSLA taking short cuts to “making money” in the secondary VSLA.
 - The VSLA should be a limit of the maximum loan size. In this instance, it is proposed that the maximum loan amount be set at R10 000 and payable over a period of up to 10 months. In this instance, we should do our best to promote 5% interest per month.
 - All members should have equal investment (or lump sum injection). This will make it easy to calculate and share out interest whenever they decide to do so.
 - We should encourage that secondary VSLAs only start sharing out interest that is generated by their lump sum investment at least from the end of the third year.
 - VSLA constitution and rules of participation should be enhanced to support this approach, loan bulking.
- There will be two pilots for this approach, one in Southern KZN and one in Bergville.

ANNEXURE 4: WWF CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE DRAFT M&E FRAMEWORK APRIL 2021

Mahlathini Development Foundation (MDF) is conducting a Covid-response project in two provinces in South Africa. Due to the economic crisis created by Covid-19, people in rural areas may be highly affected. This project works with currently active rural farmers who are already familiar with climate resilient agriculture (CRA) to boost their production and increase diversity of produce. The two areas of project implementation are the mid and lower Drakensberg regions KZN (Bergville, SKZn and Midlands 110 participants) and in the Umzimvubu catchment area of the Eastern Cape (Matatiele, 160 participants).

This project differs from MDF’s usual *modus operandi* in that it usually works with groups of farmers and introduces them to CRA, while this project works more intensively with individual farmers within these groups and assists them to implement a diversified basket of practices which includes vegetables, field cropping, and livestock integration. This M&E framework is designed to capture these changes, to assess whether this new model is working and to what extent it is working.

The aim, objectives, outcomes, and short-term gains of the project are set out below.

Project aim

Increased productivity and resilience in the mixed smallholder farming system through implementation of a basket of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) practices

Project objectives

1. Work with existing CCA learning groups to scale up production in the short term within the confines of the COVID-19 pandemic
 2. Support a range of intensified food production activities: vegetable production, field cropping and livestock integration
 3. Improve social agency for value chain support (VSLAs, bulk buying, local farmer centres and local marketing initiatives)
- EK: Number of groups they join incl VSLA

Project outcomes

1. Food and nutrition security at household level for poor, rural homesteads with enough farming income to sustainably maintain farming activities in the short term
2. Development of social agency for community-led LED and social safety net improvement of the natural resource base

Short-term gains

- Increased availability of locally produced healthy food (vegetables, field crops, poultry and livestock)
- Doubling the food production (70%-100% increase) will allow these households to have enough of a range of food stuffs to be self-sufficient and make enough income from their surplus to sustain their farming system
- Improved distribution of reasonably priced food and feed through local marketing systems will alleviate shortages in the villages and provide for easier access and
- Development of a community level social security net will improve social stability and well-being.

Project monitoring

From the changes that MDF wants to create, we have identified four aspects that need to be monitored:

1. Increased yield and production

This includes % size increase in land used, increase in yield, increased diversity in what is farmed (vegetables, field cropping, and livestock integration)

2. The use of more climate resilient agricultural (CRA) practices, and an intention to continue using them

This includes increased variety of adaptive CRA practices (for example, rainwater harvesting, tranches, more resilient crops, etc). It also needs to measure any change in attitudes towards this way of farming.

3. Improved selling and marketing of produce grown

This includes amounts sold and a percentage increase in farmer income, the role of youth in marketing, livestock auctions, setting up market stalls at events, vendors selling produce, and bakkie traders. The assumption is that most farmers are trying to sell on their own, but ceilings for sales are low and transactions costs are high, so marketing together begins to reach economies of scale. This has to be facilitated by MDF. This also includes VSLA records. MDF's experience is that without some money available very little can change for these farmers. MDF initiates the VSLAs and gathers monthly monitoring data.

4. Increased social agency

This includes inclusion in learning groups, VSLAs, and any other joint activities undertaken. Within a systemic development methodology, it is assumed that through working and learning together, people develop the ability to work together and become better at problem solving, and more motivated to tackle challenges. An example of how social agency might work is that farmers participate in learning groups and savings groups, and then may decide to form a joint planting group, or set up a small water committee, or seek formal recognition from local authority. The ultimate aim is to encourage these farmers to find a voice and engage with external stakeholders.

These data will be collected using quantitative tools that rely largely on MDF staff visiting farmers. They will be entered into an excel spread sheet (one per area) for collation and analysis. They will be compared to baseline data, and to expected results.

The monitoring tool that staff will use is copied below. This is abridged for the purposes of this framework document, with tables' rows and spaces for writing answers removed.

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPANT

- Name and Surname:
- Village:
- Age:
- Gender:
- Household head (Yes/No):
- Number of household members (*Children & adults*):
- Main source of income (social grant/employment/self-employment/unemployed):
- Number of child and pension grants:

2. INCREASED YIELD AND PRODUCTION

a) What is the total land size **used**:

Increased in farming (Size) [Covers diversity and production]		Before (Size in m ²)	Now (Size in m ²)	Comment:
	Gardening			
	Field cropping			
	Livestock (No of cattle, goats, chickens, pigs...)			

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	Trees and other resources (no of fruit, indigenous...)			
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b) What activities are undertaken:

Increased diversity in farming practices		Yes/No Before	Y/N now	Comment: why or why not
	Gardening			
	Field cropping			
	Livestock			
	Trees and other resources			

c) Practices, crops planted, livestock kept (detail and changes that give more detail to b))

Increased diversity (1)	Management and practices before	Number of practices Before	No now	What has changed; new crops	What has changed; new practices	What has changed; new management
Gardening	e.g. use of manure, flat beds			e.g Chinese cabbage, leeks	e.g Trenches, mulching, mixed cropping, P&D control	e.g Drip irrigation, tunnel
Field cropping	e.g. traditional cropping maize			e.g beans, cowpeas cc	e.g. CA, intercropping, cover crops,	e.g Close spacing, herbicides
Livestock						
Trees and other resources						

d) Growing season; longer, different, increased

Increased growing season		Yes/no Before	Yes/no Now	Comment
	Gardening			e.g.Now grows crops in winter in garden and fields
	Field cropping			
	Livestock			
	Trees and other resources			

e) Increase in diversity and yield




Increased productivity	Types	BEFORE: Quantity (KG, No)	NOW: Quantity (KG,No)	Comment
Gardening	e.g. spinach	40kg	80kg	Increased yield in trench beds
Field cropping				
Livestock				
Trees and other				

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resources				
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3. CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES

a) Five fingers conservation principles

Please list the practices and rate them				
				Detailed description of what is there- list practices.
Water management:				
Control of soil movement:				
Soil health:				
Improved crop management:				
Improved livestock management:				
Looking after indigenous plants:				

b) How has this project helped you to deal with climate change and variability in your garden? Complete table below

Past Issues	Past practice	Present practice	Impact (incl soil health and fertility and soil and water conservation)	Lessons

c) Please rank the following elements for each practice you have decided to experiment with: Use a scale of -1 to +3 Note; This question works in tandem with the question above and now ranks the 'impacts' mentioned above.
-1 = worse than normal practice, 0=no change, 1=some positive change, 2=medium positive change, 3= high positive change

	Name of practice	Soil	Water	Productivity	Labour	Pest and disease control	Cost and maintenance	Livelihoods	Adaptation
1									
2									
3									

d) Water management

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Increased water use efficiency (incl RWH, water holding, water access, water productivity)	Increase Access	Increase RWH	Increase water holding	increase water productivity (irrigation)	SCALE
					0= same or worse than before; 1= somewhat better than before, 2= much better than before

e) What have you learnt about dealing with climate change and the climatic extremes (intensity of rain, wind and sun)? How likely is it that you will continue to use each of these changes you have made? 0 = not at all likely, 1 = maybe, 2 = absolutely will. And how likely are you to tell friends about this (same scale).

Practice	Continue to use (0-2)	Tell friends (0-2)	Comments or reasons

4. HOUSEHOLD SELLING AND MARKETING

a) Income and food provision

Increased livelihood security (income)	Income before (ave monthly in Rands)...b4 COVID		Income now (Ave monthly in Rands)...		Comments
Markets	List marketing options used before		List marketing options used now		Comments
Increased livelihood security	Food types (staples, veg, livestock, fruit)	Quantity/ week (kg)	No of times eaten /week (1-7)	Sales/week (in Rands)	Comments

b) Why do you not sell more produce? What are some of the challenges you face?

c) Safety nets and diversification

Increased livelihood diversity/options	Income options Before	Income options Now	Comment; name new options e.g. which crops, etc	Scale

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				1=social grants; 2=remittances; 3=farming income; 4=small business; 5=employment
Savings (safety, security, achievement)	Amount per month Before	Amount per month Now	Use of savings	Scale
				1=food; 2=household use; 3=education; 4=production; 5=other

d) VSLA

Member of a VSLA?	Amount added	Amount loaned	What were loans used for?

4. Social agency

- a) Do you share your knowledge and experiences with the learning group or community members?
- b) How do you share the knowledge gained with other members of your community?
- c) What helps you to learn more about new innovations and information? (Specify what the farmer has learnt)
- a) Listening to other farmers experiences and experiments
- b) By doing and experimenting in own garden
- c) Motivated by other farmers work and experiences
- d) Learning workshops

d) Groups and activities

Collaborative actions/social agency	Activities in groups Before- name	Activities in groups Now	E.g. savings, church, learning groups, coops, farmers associations, work teams, selling, inputs, farmer centres, water committees ...
Informed decision making	Information used to choose activities Before	Information used to choose activities Now	e.g. Other community members, learning in groups, written info, radio, facilitators, extension officers, etc
Positive mindsets	Rate your mindset Before	Rate your mindset now	SCALE: 0=less positive about the future; 1=the same; 2=more

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			positive about the future; 3=much more positive
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Evaluation

The aim of the evaluation is to assess whether mixed farming methods can provide sustainable livelihoods for small-scale rural farmers, and the extent to which the activities undertaken by MDF work towards that aim. Two evaluations are scheduled for this project: a short formative evaluation in September 2021; and a longer summative evaluation in August 2022.

In the formative evaluation, MDF and I will ensure that we have gathered and analysed as much monitoring data as possible, to be able to assess whether agricultural, marketing, and agency behaviour have changed, and whether this has resulted in improved livelihoods. Using this information for each project area, I will conduct a series of staff workshops where they reflect on the model and talk about the monitoring results: how and where it is working well, and how and where it is working less well. We will also check on the assumptions of the project and whether they are helping or hindering achievement of outcomes, and what can be done if they are. A staff workshop was conducted early in 2021 to solicit staff views on what to monitor, and some of the assumptions that this project and model are based on. The assumptions are:

1. It is assumed that mixed farming is a resilience strategy.
2. It is assumed that youth are interested in and are able to start small businesses.
3. It is assumed that new networks and relationship will form for local food systems.
4. It is assumed that farmers will learn financial literacy and planning skills from VSLAs, and that they will use extra income from farming to maintain farming activities.
5. It is also assumed that farmers will have the time, labour, and motivation/hope/get up and go/ to makes the changes that MDF suggests.

The evaluation workshop will largely rely on a SWOT analysis. Taking the results of each area, we will jointly consider the reasons for what the monitoring data are showing. A SWOT analysis is a useful tool because it includes an examination of internal and external forces. This project will take different forms in the different areas because of the contexts – local power structures, municipalities, the geography and distance to markets, etc – and we can begin to separate out the different SWOT factors that exist in each context. Once we have some understanding of why things are going well and less well, and whether our assumptions are correct or not, the staff will then be guided on generating action plans for moving forward. SWOT looks at:

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
WEAKNESSES	THREATS (OR CHALLENGES)
This relates to the project itself, internal processes, and what works well and less well. It is at this level that we will be able to consider the assumptions	This relates to the external context in which the project sits. Here, we will try to uncover more assumptions that were made at the beginning, eg, there are no local barriers to joint marketing strategies
WAY FORWARD A plan will be developed to adapt implementation so that strengths are played to, weaknesses avoided, and efforts are made to address the assumptions directly	WAY FORWARD A plan will be developed to adapt implementation so that opportunities are grasped, threats and challenges are actively avoided, and efforts are made to address the assumptions directly
OUTSTANDING INFO WE NEED We may need to adapt the monitoring forms to gather more information	OUTSTANDING INFO WE NEED We may need to adapt the monitoring forms to gather more information

The summative evaluation will repeat the formative process and work to engage with farmers too to provide a more evidence. I will conduct a few field visits before the formative evaluation process to assess how monitoring is being achieved and any challenges facing staff who gather those data.